

**NCPS Mission:** To continuously improve the safety and quality of healthcare delivery in the region.

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## NCPS Update: September 2023

### A Message from the Executive Director

Emily Barr, OTD, MBA, OTR/L, BCG

On September 17<sup>th</sup> NCPS joins the World Health Organization in recognizing World Patient Safety Day 2023. The theme for this year is “Engaging patients for patient safety”, a day aimed to influence stakeholders to work collaboratively towards co-designing health care policies and safety interventions. World Patient Safety Day is a time to raise awareness for the need for active



engagement of patients and their families, engage health care professionals and leaders, and empower patients and families to be actively involved in their own care. Research shows that when patients are engaged in their care, measurable improvements in safety and quality can be seen. The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality has several practical tools that providers can reference to help organizations work as partners with patients and families, which can be found [here](#).

NCPS is proud to release the 2022 annual report which can be found [here](#) and on our website.

In 2022, NCPS embarked on a new adverse event reporting protocol by implementing electronic reporting through the Press Ganey platform with about 40% of our members. The new process allowed for members to submit their organization’s patient safety events more seamlessly to NCPS, which resulted in an approximately 1000% increase in events submitted. I would like to give special thanks to Dr. Katherine Jones, PT, PhD, Snehal Jadhav, MPH, Dr. Patrick Maloney, PhD, MPH, and Carla Snyder, MHA, MT(ASCP) SBB, CPHQ for their tireless efforts in creating this report. This report serves as a precedent for how NCPS collects, analyzes, and shares patient safety data as we continue to transition to electronic reporting for patient safety data. I encourage you to review the report and share with your fellow team members and leadership within your organizations. Please reach out to me at [embarr@unmc.edu](mailto:embarr@unmc.edu) with any comments or questions regarding the annual report.

### NCPS Shared Learning Resource

This month's learning resource is a Patient Safety Brief, Avoiding Wrong Site Surgery. NCPS has seen an increase in the number of these types of events reported by member

organizations. The resource may be found on the NCPS website within the Educational Resources, Patient Safety Briefs in our members only [portal](#).

## **Learning Opportunities for NCPS Members**

### **AQIPS 2023 Q3 Legal Counsel Meeting**

September 14 12noon - 1pm CT

The Alliance for Quality Improvement and Patient Safety (AQIPS) provides a legal counsel meeting each quarter for their members. NCPS is an AQIPS member and so NCPS members are also invited to attend this quarterly Legal Counsel Meeting. This is an opportunity to learn of recent legal and legislative happenings in Patient Safety. Presenters also answer attendee questions when time permits. Your organization's legal counsel is also invited/encouraged to attend. Please forward this Cisco webex invitation to your organization's legal counsel. Join from the meeting link:

<https://aqips.my.webex.com/aqips.my/j.php?MTID=m7b87e6d71988943ebc41b384f809d65e>

### **AQIPS National Safety Table Hosted by Press Ganey PSO:**

#### **Incorporating Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into Safety Event Cause Analysis**

September 27 10am-11:30am CST

Press Ganey safety and equity expert, Strategic Consulting Senior Manager, Sue Teman, BSN, CPPS, will explore strategies for blending equity into safety work, specifically event cause analysis. She will dive deep into specific safety event cases, highlighting tactics for incorporating the DEI lens into the cause analysis process. Register here [[pgforsta.zoom.us](https://pgforsta.zoom.us)]. Review the National Safe Table Virtual Convening Agreement and Confidentiality Attestation by going to the NCPS website's [Calendar of Events](#).

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## **Patient Safety Resources**

### **AHRQ-Supported Online Tool Helps Flag Patient Safety Issues**

A new pre-visit online engagement tool called OurDX has been developed by AHRQ researchers in collaboration with patients and families. This tool helped identify clinically relevant diagnostic safety opportunities in clinical visits among patients with chronic conditions (e.g. patients and families not feeling heard; problems/delays with tests or referrals; and problems/delays with explanations or next steps. The abstract may be found [here](#).

### **Anesthesia Risk Alert Program: A Proactive Safety Initiative**

Perioperative and anesthesia care present unique patient safety challenges. This article describes the development and implementation of the Anesthesia Risk Alert (ARA) program. This program promotes collaborative clinical decision-making and recommends risk mitigation strategies to address high-risk clinical scenarios, such as patients with a high body mass index. Its implementation has reduced the rate of adverse events. The abstract may be found [here](#).

## **COVID-19 Resources & Research**

**CDC's 09/08/23 Update on SARS CoV-2 Variant BA.2.86**

The Centers for Disease Control reports that the current increases in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations in the United States are not being driven by BA.2.86 and instead are being caused by other predominately circulating viruses. Also early research data from multiple labs are reassuring and show that existing antibodies work against the new BA.2.86 variant. The complete CDC update may be found [here](#).

## **Lessons From the COVID-19 Pandemic: Updating Our Approach to Masking in Health Care Facilities**

A recently published commentary in the *Annals of Internal Medicine* discusses the need for healthcare facilities to reconsider their approaches to masking. The suggested strategy is to place patient safety first and integrate masking as part of routine health care policies. The paper may be found [here](#).

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For more information about NCPS and the services we offer, please contact Carla Snyder MT(ASCP)SBB, MHA, Patient Safety Program Director at: [carlasnyder@unmc.edu](mailto:carlasnyder@unmc.edu)

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